

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

MARHOFER et al.

Art Unit: Unknown

Serial No.: Continuation of 09/960,719

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: September 29, 2003

Atty. Dck. No. 100570-00037

For: EXTERNAL PIPE WELDING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: September 29, 2003

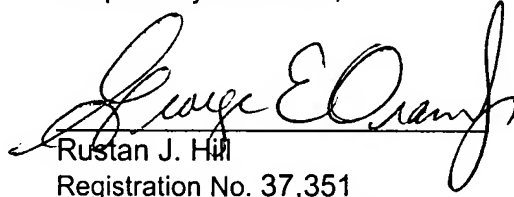
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information items listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the items be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, OR (c) accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- ☒ c. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

Respectfully submitted,


Rustan J. Hill

Registration No. 37,351

27931

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810
RJH/tdd
Enclosure: PTO Form 1449

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	Continuation of 09/960,719
				Filing Date	September 29, 2003
				First named Inventor	MARHOFFER et al.
				Group Art Unit	Unknown
				Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet	1	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	100570-00037

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		3,555,239		Kerth	01-12-1971	
		3,737,614		Paulange	06-05-1973	
		4,005,305		Nelson et al.	01-25-1977	
		4,019,016		Friedman et al.	04-19-1977	
		4,144,992		Omae et al.	03-20-1979	
		4,163,886		Omae et al.	08-07-1979	
		4,248,371		Melton	02-03-1981	
		4,260,869		Slavens et al.	04-07-1981	
		4,331,278		Sherer et al.	05-25-1982	
		4,368,375		Merrick et al.	01-11-1983	
		4,371,105		Melton	02-01-1983	
		4,373,125		Kazlauskas	02-08-1983	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
			EP 0 983 816	A2	Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co. et al.	03-08-2000		
			GB 2 274 420	A	Atlantic Point Inc.	07-27-1994		
			GB 2 159 748	A	Saipem S.p. A.	12-11-1985		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			Complete if Known		
			Application Number	Continuation of 09/960,719	
			Filing Date	September 29, 2003	
			First named Inventor	MARHOFFER et al.	
			Group Art Unit	Unknown	
			Examiner Name	Unknown	
Sheet	2		4	Attorney Docket Number	100570-00037

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		4,631,386		Slavens	12-23-1986	
		4,635,839		Slavens	01-13-1987	
		4,645,902		Hayakawa	02-24-1987	
		4,658,112		Thompson	04-14-1987	
		4,857,701		Slavens	08-15-1989	
		5,059,765		Laing	10-22-1991	
		5,148,000		Tews	09-15-1992	
		5,227,601		Black	07-13-1993	
		5,347,101		Brennan et al.	09-13-1994	
		5,534,676		Rinaldi et al.	07-09-1996	
		5,571,431		Lantieri et al.	11-05-1996	
		5,593,605		Jones	01-14-1997	
		5,796,068		Jones	08-18-1998	
		5,796,069		Jones et al.	08-18-1998	
		5,932,123		Marhofer et al.	08-03-1999	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ <i>(if known)</i>				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

TECH/201290.1

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	Continuation of 09/960,719		
		Filing Date	September 29, 2003		
		First named Inventor	MARHOFER et al.		
		Group Art Unit	Unknown		
		Examiner Name	Unknown		
Sheet	3		4	Attorney Docket Number	100570-00037

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s) publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
		Brochure re: VERAWELED, computer controlled, high deposition, multi-purpose, automated welding system published by Vermaat Technics, Inc., Palm Coast, Florida 32135, U.S.A., date unknown. 6 pages	
		Brochure re: LH COMET MK 2, welding system, published by LH and Associates (UK) Ltd., United Kingdom, date unknown. 2 pages	
		Web Pages from www.bugo.com , re: BUG-O SYSTEMS, A Division of Weld Tooling Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15204-1899, U.S.A., date unknown. 29 pages	
		Web Pages from www.magnatech-lp.com , re: MAGNATECH, A Limited Partnership, East Granby, Connecticut 06026, U.S.A., date unknown. 6 pages	
		Web Pages from www.crc-evans.com/division/autoweld/process/bot.html , re: CRC-EVANS AUTOMATIC WELDING, A Division of CRC- Evans Pipeline International, Inc., Houston, Texas 77086, U.S.A., date unknown. 15 pages	
		Web Pages from www.vermaat-technics.nl , re: VERMAAT TECHNICS BV, Houston, Texas 77086, U.S.A., date unknown. 10 pages	
		Patent Abstracts of Japan; Vol. 5, No. 18 (M-053), February 3, 1981; Publication Number 55-147496; Publication Date November 17, 1980	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 100570-00037	SERIAL NO. Continuation of 09/960,719
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>		APPLICANT MARHOFER et al.	
		FILING DATE September 29, 2003	GROUP Not Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	4,631,386	12-1986	Slavens, Clyde M.			
	AB	4,144,992	03-1979	Omae et al.			
	AC	4,841,123	06-1989	Novak et al.			
	AD	3,806,694	04-1974	Nelson et al.			
	AE	3,777,115	12-1973	Kazlauskas et al.			
	AF	3,619,552	11-1971	Cape, Richard Allen Gordon			
	AG	4,556,777	12-1985	Sarugaku et al.			
	AH	4,996,409	02-1991	Paton et al.			
	AI	4,005,308	01-1977	Chaney et al.			
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO PART.		
	AO								
	AP								

OTHER REFERENCES *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

	AQ-	
--	-----	--

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	